

# Fairy Stone State Park

## Custom Programing and Outreach

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Virginia State Parks are special places where one can leave behind life's daily pressures and reconnect with nature. They are a tonic for the mind, body and soul for teachers, students and all citizens of the Commonwealth.

Imagine the lives of your ancestors: digging iron ore with pick and shovel, knapping flint arrowheads by the creek bottom, hauling hundreds of tons of rock to create Fairy Stone dam or making whiskey by the light of the moon. Here you can hear a small part of their story.

Or look toward the future and learn where your drinking water comes from, and what you can do to help keep it clean.

And let's not overlook our namesake fairy stone cross. Hunt for your very own **Staurolite** crystal and learn about the geologic activity that created them...and the Appalachian Mountains.

Fairy Stone State Park is open to accommodating your environmental education needs. If none of the programs on this sheet are what you are looking for, do not hesitate to send an email or give us a call. We will do our best to design a program to fit the educational experience you are looking for.

Depending on the time of year and park staffing levels, we can also provide outreach programming at your location.

Come out to the park and lose those classroom blues!



## Field Trips

Fairy Stone State Park  
967 Fairystone Lake Drive  
Stuart, VA 24171  
Visitor Center: 276-930-3155  
Office: 276-930-2424  
email: [samuel.jensen@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:samuel.jensen@dcr.virginia.gov)  
or: [fairystonevc@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:fairystonevc@dcr.virginia.gov)



## Field Trip # 1 From Magnetite to Staurolite

Take a hike and experience history from the late 1700s to 1941 centered on Fairy Stone State Park.

Children love history when they can see the evidence right in front of them and pick it up for a closer look. This program takes students on a mile long hike around Stuart's Knob. Stuart's Knob was mined for iron ore from the late 1700s until 1910. The story of Stuart's Knob gives students a look at larger historical elements, like the Civil War and the Great Depression, in a digestible local context.

SOLs involved:

2.7, 3.7, 3.9, VS.7, VS.8, USI.8, USII.5, VUS.8

Elements:

- 1 mile hike on the Iron Mine trail at Stuart's Knob
- Exploration of the park visitor center, which focuses on park history
- Watch a portion of a DVD presentation of park history with pictures



## Field Trip # 2 The Hills have Fairy Stones

Hunt for fairy stones and learn about the formation of the Appalachian mountains.

Among the oldest mountains in the world, the Appalachian mountain chain has gone through many changes. Millions of years ago, two tectonic plates collided and the mountains were formed. One effect of their formation was the creation of the staurolite crystals that give the park its name.

SOLs involved:

4.8, 5.7, ES6

Elements:

- USGS video (20 min.) on the geology of the Appalachian mountains
- Short talk on how to identify fairy stones and their cultural history
- Drive to the fairy stone hunt site and look for fairy stones



## Field Trip # 3 Your Watershed, Your Water

Experience first hand how we are all connected to the water cycle.

Do you know where your next drink of water is right now? How about what watershed you live in? Where does waste water go when you pour it down the drain? Understanding the water cycle and the social impacts of water use are important to making informed adult decisions.

SOLs involved:

3.5, 3.9, 4.8, 6.8, 6.9, ES7, ES9

Elements:

- Water cycle game
- Investigate macrobiotic organisms in Hale Creek
- Build a mini watershed

